

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 51 and 56 without prejudice or disclaimer, amend claims 50, 55, 57 and 60, and add claims 62 thru 64, as follows:

Claims 1-49. (Canceled)

1 50. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for detecting abnormalities, said
2 apparatus comprising:

3 a plurality of heads for recording data onto a medium and reproducing data from
4 the medium;

5 a controlling unit for controlling said plurality of heads to reproduce a signal from
6 the medium while the signal is being recorded onto the medium; and

7 a determining unit for determining an abnormality in the recorded signal in
8 dependence upon a result obtained when comparing the signal reproduced from the
9 medium with a reference signal;

10 wherein said determining unit compares a signal level of an envelope of the signal
11 reproduced from the medium with a reference signal level.

Claim 51. (Canceled)

1 52. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for detecting abnormalities, said

apparatus comprising:

a plurality of heads for recording data onto a medium and reproducing data from the medium;

a controlling unit for controlling said plurality of heads to reproduce a signal from the medium while the signal is being recorded onto the medium; and

a determining unit for determining an abnormality in the recorded signal in dependence upon the signal reproduced from the medium;

said plurality of heads comprising:

a first head formed on a head drum with said first head having a first azimuth angle;

a second head formed on the head drum with said second head having a second azimuth angle different from said first azimuth angle; and

a third head formed on the head drum and disposed between said first and second heads.

53. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for detecting abnormalities, said apparatus comprising:

a head drum having a plurality of heads formed thereon;

a controlling unit for controlling said plurality of heads to reproduce a signal from the medium while the signal is being recorded onto the medium; and

a determining unit for determining an abnormality in the recorded signal in

7 dependence upon the signal reproduced from the medium;

8 said plurality of heads comprising:

9 a first head having a first azimuth angle for recording first information,
10 selected from the data, onto the medium;

11 a second head having a second azimuth angle different from said first
12 azimuth angle for recording second information, selected from the data, onto the
13 medium;

14 said first and second heads being respectively formed at separate locations
15 of said head drum; and

16 a third head for reproducing third information from the medium, said third
17 information corresponding to information selected from the first information and
18 the second information, said third head being formed on an outer surface of said
19 head drum and between said first and second heads.

1 54. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 53, said determining unit
2 determining the abnormality in the recorded signal in dependence upon a result obtained
3 by comparing the signal reproduced from the medium with a reference signal.

1 55. (Currently Amended) A method for detecting an abnormality of a recorded
2 signal, comprising the steps of:
3 recording a signal onto a medium;

4 reproducing the signal from the medium while the signal is being recorded onto
5 the medium; and

6 determining an abnormality of the recorded signal in dependence upon a result
7 obtained by comparing the signal reproduced from the medium with a reference signal;

8 wherein the determining step is carried out by comparing a signal level of an
9 envelope of the reproduced signal with a reference signal level.

Claim 56. (Canceled)

1 57. (Currently Amended) A digital recorder and player, comprising:

2 a plurality of heads comprising:

3 a first head formed on a head drum;

4 a second head formed on the head drum; and

5 a third head formed on the head drum and disposed between said first and
6 second heads;

7 said plurality of heads recording digital data onto a medium and reproducing data
8 from the medium, said heads reproducing a digital signal from the medium while the
9 digital signal is being recorded onto the medium by at least one of said heads; and

10 a determining unit for determining an abnormality in the recorded signal in
11 dependence upon the digital signal reproduced from the medium[[:]].

1 58. (Previously Presented) The digital recorder and player of claim 57, wherein
2 said first head and said second head are each formed on an outer surface of the head
3 drum.

1 59. (Previously Presented) A recording and reproducing apparatus, comprising:
2 a controller for outputting first and second switching signals;
3 a first switch operating in response to said first switching signal, said operating of
4 said first switch activating a first head to record first data onto a medium; and
5 a second switch operating in response to said second switching signal, said
6 operating of said second switch activating a second head to reproduce second data from
7 the medium during said recording of said first data, said second data corresponding to
8 said first data recorded on the medium, said second data reproduced from said medium
9 being substantially identical to said first data recorded onto said medium when
10 abnormalities are not present.

1 60. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 59, further comprising:
2 a comparator for comparing predetermined reference data to said second data, and
3 for outputting an alert signal to notify a user when said predetermined reference data is
4 not substantially [[equal]] identical to said second data.

1 61. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 60, said comparator not

2 outputting said alert signal when said predetermined reference data is substantially
3 [[equal]] identical to said second data.

1 62. (New) The apparatus of claim 52, wherein said determining unit compares a
2 signal level of an envelope of the signal reproduced from the medium with a reference
3 signal level.

1 63. (New) The apparatus of claim 54, wherein said determining unit compares a
2 signal level of an envelope of the signal reproduced from the medium with a reference
3 signal level.

1 64. (New) The digital recorder and player of claim 57, wherein said determining
2 unit compares a signal level of an envelope of the signal reproduced from the medium
3 with a reference signal level.